4-9-92

Valley STAR

LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE VAN NUYS, CA

Vol. 44 No. 23 April 9, 1992

Newspectrum

MEChA film day

MEChA announces Chicano film day featuring *Zoot Suit*, 1 p.m., Wednesday, April 22, in the Fireside Room of Monarch Hall. Discussion afterwards until 3 p.m.

Tau Alpha Epsilon Honor Society

The honor society thanks all the students who contributed to the clothes drive for the homeless. Over 1,000 articles of clothing will be donated to the LA Mission located in the San Fernando Valley. Friday, April 10 is the last day to donate clothing. The bins are located at the library and administration building.

Earth Day celebration

Earth day celebration and club day will be Wednesday, April 22. All school clubs will be represented from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the quad area. There will be food, environmental speakers and music. Admission is free.

Library announces spring break hours

The school library will be open three days during spring break:
Monday through Wednesday, April 13-15, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Phantom of the Opera

On April 9 through 11, the Theater Arts Department will present their version of the play at 8 p.m. in the Little Theater. General admission is $7. Students with ID and senior citizens are $5.

Spring break

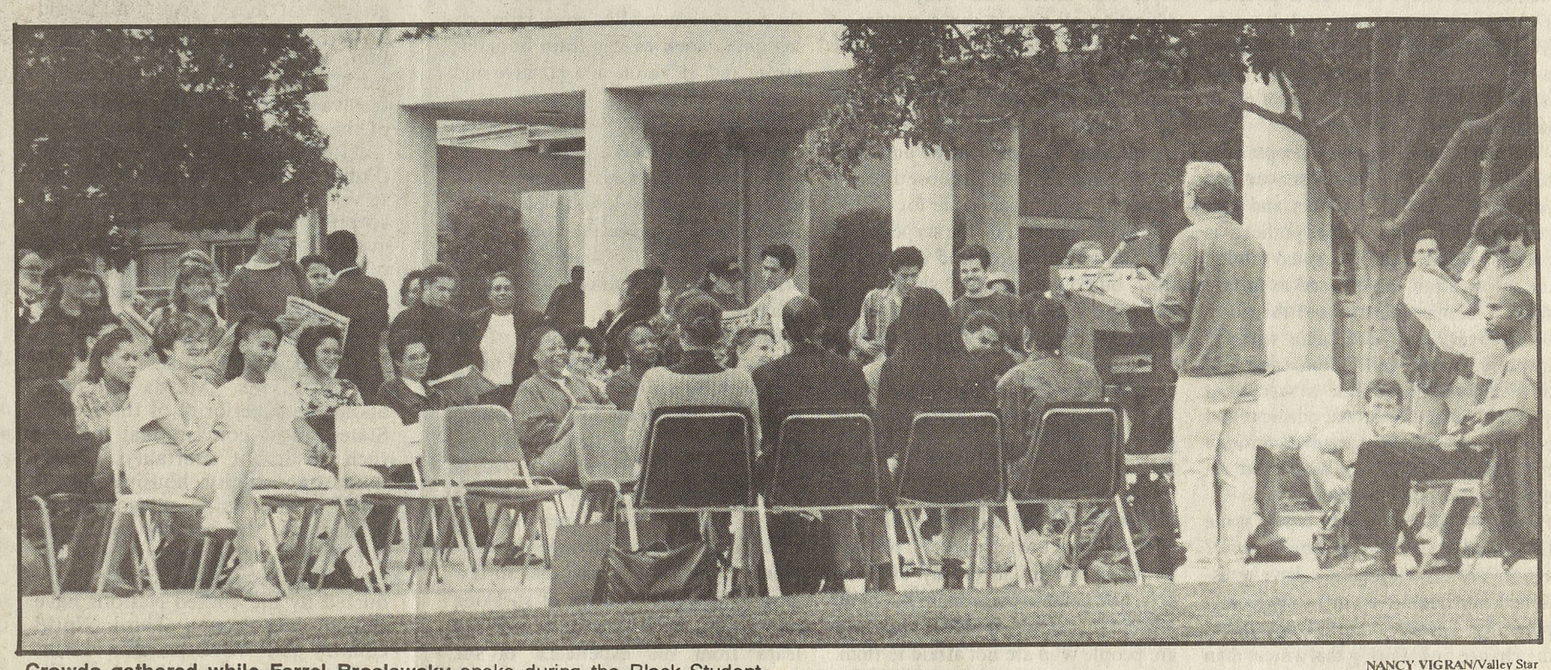
The school will be closed for spring break from April 13 to April 17. School will resume on Monday, April 20.

Flex Days

On Thursday, April 23 and 24, all day classes will be cancelled.
Faculty will visit areas of the campus and attend programs formulated for those days.

Theater arts

The Theater arts lab will present *Lost and Found* April 24 & 25.



Crowds gathered while Farrel Broslawsky spoke during the Black Student Union rally Monday. Opposing Valley Star article, *Do literacy and babies mix?* by Editor Chris Mayda.

NANCY VIGRAN/Valley Star

News feature

Health Fair offers free medical screening

By Jordan Moore
Staff Writer

The 1992 Valley College Health Fair offers free medical screening in a variety of areas including blood pressure screening, body fat analysis and nutritional counseling. With no idea what to expect, I embarked on my personal health exploration in the free health screening room beneath the decaying ceiling of Monarch Hall.

After filling out a short form, I entered the Hall to discover the large room busy with the activity of hundreds of students and nurses. Many of the exhibits were being run by students studying nursing here at Valley, including my first stop, the blood pressure screening.

Upon taking my pressure, which apparantly was good, 90/60, the student assumed I was a very relaxed, easy-going guy. After showing him my best face of pure skepticism, he asked me how often I exercised. It was then that I realized the only exercise I get comes from rushing around campus in an academic frenzy. He suggested intense exercise two or three times a week for at least twenty minutes in order to exercise my heart.

My next stop was the glaucoma test and it was a mistake. I should have realized this when I saw the video monitors depicting cataract removal, up close. It was too late, however, for before I knew what was going on I was staring into a pen light. I then received some acidic eye-drops which dilated my pupils and gave me a headache for the rest of the day. Unable to keep my eyes open, the optometrist told me he wouldn't be able to check me for glaucoma but that was alright because most people don't get it until after 40 years of age. I walked away blinking a lot.

After discovering that I'm two inches shorter than I previously thought I was, I entered the screening who's promise had intrigued me the most, the body fat analysis. Removing my right shoe and lying prone on table for a moment, the health practitioners attached wires to my foot and hand with tape and sent a mild electric current through my body. Apparantly, the sooner the current reaches from one wire connection to another, the more fat one's body contains. If the current takes a long time, the body contains more muscle, which is dense. Unfortunately,the computer misunderstood me and my body because it determined I was 100 percent fat. A second test found me to contain 2 percent fat, which is physically impossible. Discussing this phenomenon with the doctor supervising the exhibit, one student interrupted and said, body builders have 5 percent fat. The doctor pointed out that most of those individuals are on steroids. Upon further investigation, I learned that 25 percent body fat is normal and healthy, but apparantly I am either skin and bones or have difficulty getting through doors.

I then wandered over to a testing table for Tay-Sachs Disease, which, I soon learned, is a degenerative genetic disease which affects infants. It is carried by a recessive gene and when both parents have the gene the child has a 1 in 4 chance of contracting it. The child is born normal but at eight months of age the gene begins attacking the normal functions of the body and this can lead to loss of motor skills, blindness, retardation and death. People with Jewish ancestry have a much higher chance of carrying the disease so, being Jewish, I took the quick blood test which can identify the trait.

Now, I hate needles, but the pursuit of journalistic excellence compelled me.

Now, I hate needles, but the pursuit of journalistic excellence compelled me. Seeing the person before me literally run away from the needle didn't bolster my confidence either. Luckily, however, I was in the hands of a professional and it didn't hurt much at all. I even brought a friend back to get her tested. Besides, they gave away candy.

Walking about amidst all this free medical care, something struck me as odd, and I couldn't place what it was. Was it the simplicity of the whole idea? Was it the lack of frustration from excessive paperwork? Perhaps all these medical practitioners doing their job for the sake of doing it, for the general good health of everyone, seemed almost too much to ever hope for.

My answer came when I walked up to a table run by Seniors for Political Action. They had petitions demanding immediate health care for all. I signed it.

Protest calls for editor resignation

By Ismail Shabazz
Raquel Vaccaro
Staff Writers

A vocally charged student/teacher protest exploded with emotion Monday morning at LAVC calling for the resignation of the editor-in-chief of the campus newspaper, Chris Mayda, who was denounced as a "bigot" and a "racist" in speeches peppered with expletives. The crowd consisted of approximately 200 students.

Do Literacy and babies mix?, an article in the April 2 issue of the *Valley Star* newspaper by Mayda condemning the poor and uneducated for procreating, "is a racist article," said LAVC history professor Farrel Broslawsky. "It's the worst form of racism," he said, "because it passes as intellectual."

Karime Harris, Mayda's most vocal opponent, said, "In two years as a student (at LAVC) I have never seen this kind of sh!#." Harris said, "This is not a Black-white issue; it affects all races and religions."

Mayda's article said, "Those with the power, those with the education--they take birth control pills and abort the unwanted, the unplanned and give the best to those they raise. The uneducated have babies with such regularity that many educated have wondered if it is a conspiracy." The "educated" and "powerful" referred to, has been interpreted as whites whom Mayda says have a 14.7-per-thousand birth rate and 22 percent are a college-educated.

Two editors of the *Star*, Steve Dunlap and Joezen Punongbayan, spoke at the rally. Punongbayan called for the resignation of Mayda. Commissioner of Chicano Studies Fabiola Torres "yelled" after reading the first paragraph and said, "It's really easy to blame minorities for the problems in this country." She added, "[Mayda] is not the only one who thinks this way." Torres is calling for the resignation of Mayda.

Mayda's article asked, "Is it better to take the chance and have 10 children and hope that maybe one will escape the ghetto and be the special anointed one..." LAVC student Chignon Callan fired back saying, "If I have 10 children, all will be special!" History major Debbie McCurry said, "This article implies that Black and Brown women should voluntarily abort the unborn."

Mayda, who was present, was asked to speak and said, "All semester I have tried to get our 50 percent population of color to participate in our newspaper. Until now I have failed. This is a college and we are here to learn. Teach me."

Steroid use leads to serious side effects

By Catherine Gunn
Staff Writer

Debating the efficacy and risks of steroids, yesterday's panel enacted the eternal wrestle of ethics against vice, but ended blaming a common enemy, societal pressure, for the habit of millions of athletes.

The long term use of anabolic steroids has lead to serious side effects, including cancer, high blood pressure, painful joints and mood swings, said Dr. Gary Allen Green, director of the UCLA intercollegiate athletic drug testing program.

Tina Plankinger, a former user, told the audience in the Little Theater yesterday there are many addicts who need help. She helps people whose self-image deteriorates at the mere thought of being without bulging arms by showing how the subconscious mind can take on a new value system through hypnosis.

"Steroid abusers aren't bad people," said Plankinger. "But they have to hit bottom."

Dan Duchaine, author of the "Underground Steroid Handbook" gave the flipside of the caveats before imploring listeners in the Little Theater to keep an open mind.

"Don't believe the whole story," he said. "Is a big clitoris or [facial] hair going to kill a girl?" said Duchaine.

Duchaine said because doctors are forbidden to prescribe and do not learn about steroids in medical school, they are ignorant on how to use the drugs. "If doctors were more informed, steroids would be a safer drug to use," he said.

Millions of athletes have used steroids since the 1940s, most of them without complaints, said Duchaine. Plankinger said she experience side effects, including depression. "Tina had no supervisor," said Duchaine. "Tina picked the wrong steroids."

As the "steroid guru," Duchaine shows athletes how to beat the test and even did it last week. Duchaine spent time in a federal prision because of steroids.

Athletes will still use steroids even if they are illegal, said Duchaine. It is easy to pass the steroid test, he said.

Anabolic steroids stopped being improved upon in 1965. "We are using old technology," said Duchaine.

Banning steroids gives athletes who continue to use them a bad image, he

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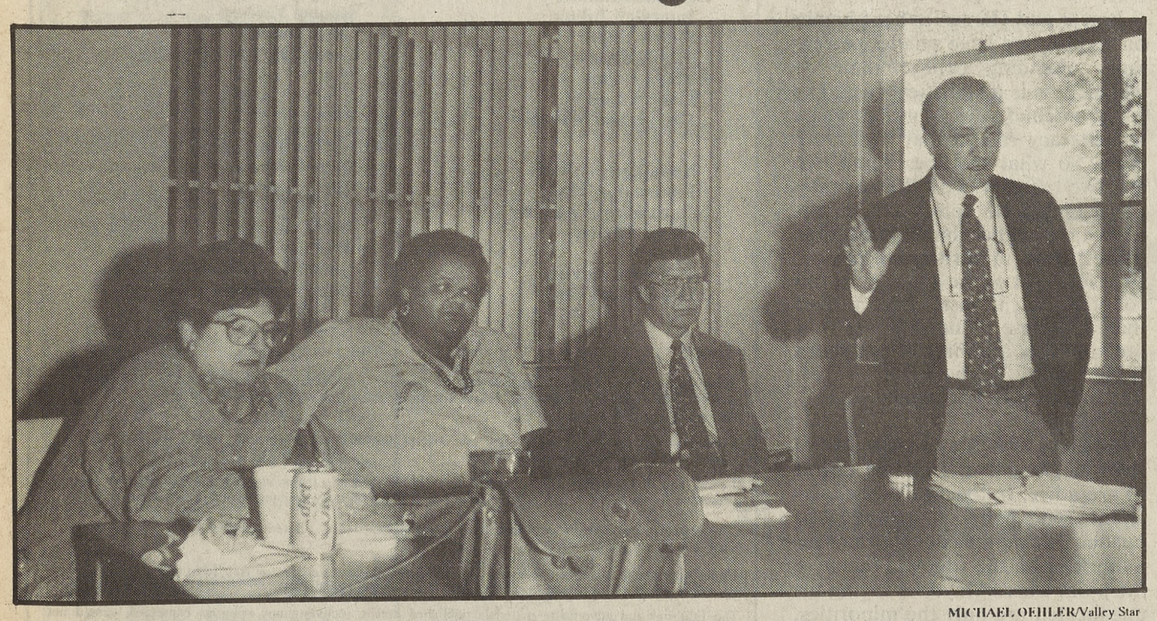
AFT union race

Candidates disagree in heated debate

● *"With nine campuses in the district, we should have economy of scale instead of a millstone."*



MICHAEL OEHLER/Valley Star

From left to right, LAVC chair Dr. Barbara Pottharst, Gwen Hill, John McDowell Leon Marzillier

By Chris Mayda
Editor in chief

The American Federation of Teacher's candidate's forum on Monday in the faculty lounge turned from formal and parliamentary to a heated discussion with candidates not able to hold to the protocol procedure initially setup.

Though time was allowed for all offices for the upcoming May 4 election were to have a time for their platform, the issue at hand, the presidential debate, was in full swing within 20 minutes. The two candidates, incumbent Gwen Hill and opposer Leon Marzillier, began in an orderly fashion, but then courtesy and etiquette eluded them as it became a fervent contest with both sides charging the other side with not telling the truth.

Marzillier launched into his attack by calling attention to the current trend for salaries in the local district. LACCD salaries have percentage-wise decreased both in relation to other districts and the state, said Marzillier.

"We have a tenth college [the district] without students," said Marzillier as he pointed out that the district budget is higher than four of the colleges in the district. Marzillier said he wants the budget focused on teacher-student programs rather than what he sees as the current budget priorities of district programs first.

Hill, a LACC instructor, began her speech stressing her experience, three and a half years as president, years of experience on many committees and her ability to be a team player. She stood with her hands in her pockets and in full command, easily addressing the issues.

In response to Marzillier's claim of the lack of salary increases, she said the she didn't agree with him. She said the district had received two salary increases of 6 and 8 percent plus a benefits package that the Glendale school did not have.

She stressed she believed her constituency wanted the benefits package and health benefits into retirement and said, "If you tell me different, I will adjust." She attacked her opponent by saying she was surprised someone said the benefits package was not imporant.

The first question asked had to do with increases in union dues.

Hill answered the question first and was very controlled in her response, however, Marzillier used the question as a springboard to point out his view that the current president was not in

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Editor's point of view

By Chris Mayda
Editor in chief

Mankind has changed its ideas from time to time. When one idea gets worn down, a new one springs forth in someones mind. People thought the world was flat, that the sun revolved around the earth, that man could hold another man as slave. But some people have thought that there was another way. Through hypothesis and experimentation, through learning from these experiences, we come to where we are today. And we have much to still learn. How exciting to have these opportunities.

In the effort of discovery people may make errors. They may discover that part of a hypothesis works and that others parts do not. If a hypothesis is partially confirmed or negated totally, the information can be used to further study. Thomas Edison used this form of discovery time and again with his inventions. He failed thousands of times before he became a success at any particular effort. All political and economic thought has evolved through trial and error. Years of work were required. But people learned.

People have asked me if I would write the article *Do literacy and babies mix?* again. Yes. Though people have questioned my intentions, my sources, my paternity, I learned more from taking the chance and writing that article than 20 years of schooling have ever done. I communicated. And in response, others communicated with me. The article would change though. My theory that the world is overpopulated and there is a relationship with levels of education, literacy and birth rates, stands. It was never intended for the article to be racist, or read that way.

This is what was learned. People are very sensitive about racial issues today, all people. Color should not be an element in discussion of problems, it only points to keeping the matter of color discrimination to the fore. But at the same time, because of past policies of an overwhelmingly male white ruling power, many people are denied power. Those denied power are all races and sexes. And only through educating all people can a system of equality and redefinition of power take shape.

The issue is not one of racism. It is of personal responsibility. We as a people must look at what we are doing to our planet. We must choose a course of action to be responsible for our deeds, not lay it off on the scapegoat of the day and feel free and exonerated from our own acts. We should stop looking everywhere but in ourselves to blame for the sorry state of our planet.

When I look inside myself I see an America that blames the government because our education is not what it should be. I see us trying to just get by rather than try to correct the problems by taking honest and positive steps toward success. No matter what my article or any other researched point of view that runs in the *Valley Star* states, it shows that there are people who are not afraid to think, to read, to learn from others. Agreeing is not the point, but solid refutation is. From this we discover other ways of seeing, understanding, communicating. This is opportunity.

Disagreement is the basis on which our own country is founded. Religious prosecution brought many to our shores. A lack of responsible freedom of speech helped create our first amendment, to give our founding fathers a goal. Though they made mistakes along the way, part of the beauty of the Constitution is its flexibility and life today, over two hundred years later. But the world still changes. And we at LAVC can be a part of that change, work to further the understanding of people with each other. There is no reason to call names or throw hate around like some comforting quilt, when we can learn from our errors and move on in a positive and enriching manner.

Mergers have created a more homogeneous voice of the press because they look to please the masses, and not hear the voice of the diverse opinion. The search for profit creates a literary pablum without the spice of variety.

But LAVC offers a freedom of the press, and will not allow itself to be censored by advisers or administration. This fosters the love of learning and experimentation that schools are meant to nourish. Here every student who researches an opinion can have a forum. The only boundaries are a respect for privacy, good taste and individual rights. It is a pity that so few have taken the advantage of speaking an opinion, be it popular or not and learn from the experience of the thought.

This is a learning institution. This is the time to take chances, to make mistakes to move forward in the search for knowledge.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An intellectual G-string

Dear Editor:

Assuming that she was writing satire, I initially enjoyed reading Chris Mayda. Her first piece, in which she attributed the problems of American women to the feminist movement, was really funny. Her second column, in which she suggested that mass executions would increase funding for public education, was also laughable. Her latest work, however, is ...patently offensive to the intellectual sensibility of the students and faculty.

After wrenching the Chilean poet [Pablo Neruda] out of context to serve as an intellectual G-string covering an ugly genital rash, she gushes forth about living in the best of all possible societies in the best of all possible worlds where those who are "superior" rise to levels of achievement unimpeded by race, sex, ethnic origin or class.

Though Ms. Mayda is smug about the superiority of the United States, most conventional indices, such as infant mortality, educational opportunity, housing, health care, crime and environmental health show this country to be well behind the achievements of other industrialized nations. Studies conducted by the United Nations have shown that even a Third World country like Cuba provides better health care and education for its children than does this "best" of all possible societies. The *Los Angeles Times* recently provided an evaluation of decent living standards among the nations of the world, and the United States fell well behind most of the nations listed in Ms. Mayda's pretty little graph of nations with "99 percent literacy."

The American Council for Literacy suggests that there is a 64 percent rate of literacy in the United States, while the Department of Defense optimistically cites an 80 percent rate for applicants to the Armed Forces. Among those of us who teach, there is growing suspicion that the figures are inflated.

In an extended tautology, Ms. Mayda points out that the poor are poor because they are poor. In her insulated world, racism in nonexistent, a rapacious dominant class is not a problem, an unresponsive political system is not a major concern.

Ms. Mayda finishes with an unrelated jeremiad about overpopulation, the fate of the Earth and the diminishment of available resources.

Ms. Mayda's article could lead to a healthy corrective reaction. Students who are offended by the piece could respond by joining with those who are already involved in campus organizations directly dealing with ethnic, racial and social issues. Those who are insulted by the arguments presented by Ms. Mayda might extend their questioning into the classroom. The most immediate response should be a deluge of intelligent letters and extended columns.

Farrel Broslawsky
professor, history department

Guilty of faulty logic

Dear Editor:

I am not particularly offended by Chris Mayda's article, "Do literacy and babies mix?" only because I know her conclusions couldn't be true.

Blacks and Hispanics have higher birth rates and have smaller percentages attending college than do whites; this is a statistical fact. The editor in chief cites countries where low literacy rates equal high birth rates. So what she does is put two and two together. Low literacy rates equal high birth rates, and minorities have higher birth rates than whites; thus, minorities are responsible for most of the illiteracy in this country. But, it hasn't been proven that in these countries the low literacy rates are directly correlated with their high birth rates. Therefore, Mayda's conclusion is illogical.

I believe that Mayda is guilty of faulty logic and to a certain degree of prejudice. In the article, she talks about two pairs of people: the uneducated vs. the educated and the minorities vs. the whites. It came to the point where Mayda is saying the uneducated are only the minorities, which is obviously untrue. Another prejudice and an ignorance of history she reveals is when she says minorities are the cause of this world's destruction (loss of the rain forest, burning of the ozone layer, etc.). Any accurate American history textbook will tell you that before white man came to America, the indigenous Americans were "in touch with Mother Earth." The white man has historically rejected the indigenous American and African way of living and replaced it with European way of living, and it is this way of living that is leading this world to destruction.

My message to Chris Mayda is that if she makes a judgment about a group of people she knows little about, it's called prejudice because she's drawing conclusions from her own personal feelings. Normally, I would support this article under "freedom of speech," but most of her comments are so blatantly false, I can't support it.

Jose Gonzalez
GALA secretary
Mechista

Chasing down the editor

Dear Editor:

I am enraged. I just attended the anti-Chris Mayda rally on campus regarding her very controversial article on poor people and multiple births.

I truly believe her whole message was lost because minority students right away jumped the gun and took offense and *made* it a race issue. She was *not* saying that minorities shouldn't have children. She was pointing out that the people who are in extreme poverty have the most kids, and therefore bring the quality of life down for them and others around them. I totally agree with her; people who cannot offer their children a half-way decent education or life shouldn't bring them into such a messed-up world.

I chased Ms. Mayda down as she was walking away from the rally to express my views to her, and she said, "It's all about people taking responsibility." We all have to work to clean up Mother Earth and improve the quality of life for our children, and multiple births among the poor (not just minorities) are not fair to the children born into such circumstances or other fellow human beings.

I hope others will see this point and give Ms. Mayda a chance to express herself.

Jill Zimmerman
student

Nothing but losers

Dear Editor:

In response to Christopher Sharpe's editorial *We're Nothing But Gutless Losers*, I find it a pity that Mr. Sharpe does not have the decency to try and understand police work. You remember them, "the joke of those sworn to 'protect and serve,' " who every single day goes out and risks his or her life to try and make the community as safe as possible so you can live another day to preach what awful people they are.

Has it ever occured to you that the response time being so high might be for the fact that crime is so high and the budget for personnel is so low? And the reason it takes six cruisers to arrest a solitary teen-ager for selling crack is they don't know who else around is involved and might open fire on them.

And of course you don't see these cops putting eight to 12 hours on patrol sometimes without a break. The nerve of them trying to catch two or three minutes to relax and catch their second wind so they can be in the right frame of mind when they risk their lives for you.

"Let the minorities kill each other off" is the appropriate response one thinks of when the police are not doing their job. They are angry. But is this anger put on the right people?

There is a very small percentage of law enforcers that have that thinking. I know, because I was a cop.

People ask me why I am no longer a cop. I say because everyone is so concerned with the criminals' rights. Nobody cares about the cop who got killed by an unknown assailant — page 26 in the papers.

We had a saying "you let scum in your life and protect their right to violate ...others. But the cop who arrests them is the bad guy. And when the white hour comes, we're your Daddy. We're everyone's Daddy."

Sharpe, put your anger where it should be, on the criminals. And I dare you and anyone else who believes all cops are scum. I dare you to become a cop and see what we go through and after having people act toward you they wrote your opinion, you will quit in disgust and wonder what's the point in helping those who don't see me risk my life for them so they can spit in my face.

Tracy D. Hart

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Blame those in power

Dear Editor:

I had no idea that the editor of the *Valley Star* was such an ego-loving, narrow-minded, Hitler philosophy-spouting bigot until I read Ms. Mayda's article last week.

Why is it that when the times get tough as in this recession, people start scapegoating? Instead of devoting all that space in her article last week to promoting voter registration or something else more beneficial to everyone, the article was used to promote more bigotry, as if we need more.

The editor failed to state how those in power achieved that so-called "power." They achieved it through the blood, sweat, and tears of the so-called "minorities." Ninety percent of the Native American Indians were annihilated by those in power.

Most of us African-Americans were stolen from our beautiful, civilized and powerful (yes, *powerful*) mother continent and brought over, shackled and helpless, to a strange land by the evil ones in power at the time to be used like animals to build this country.

African-Americans and Hispanics are not the ones to blame for the problems we have now. The ones to blame are those in power.

In a few years to come, the "minorities" will be the majority. To "those in power" times are changing. The 15 percent rate of educated African-Americans and Hispanics is steadily climbing just as our population is. Don't blame us if we're not slaughtering our unborn children before they're born as "those in power" have done.

Jeffery Dahmer, the cannibal, and the policemen who almost savagely beat to death Rodney King are members of the race that Chris Mayda says are "in power." If they're members of "those in power" now, then the Devil is truly in charge.

Betty Bowman-Simmons
Student

Mayda article off target

Dear Editor:

I had trouble deciding how to attack the opinion piece you ran last week which correlated birth rate with literacy. As the piece used impressive graphs suggesting that the relationship between low literacy and high birth rate was one of cause and effect, and as other variables such as socioeconomic status and individual access to resources were omitted, I was tempted to attack your use of these statistics to make your point.

These statistics attempt to justify what rapidly becomes an elitist opinion piece. Who exactly are the "special" people? And why do you expect me to accept that "those in power will not lose what they have, so the rest, the masses, will be forced to share an ever shortened supply of space, money, water and air"? You want a change, but only in the behavior of the minorities?

Most of us agree that overpopulation is depleting the resources and polluting the planet. But targetting the uneducated, which you imply are minorities and ghetto residents, as the main source of environmental problems is ridiculous. Also, if children are the only resource, as labor or as future security, that people can produce, they will produce them. And to state the only reason "uneducated" women have babies is because they are "either oblivious to birth control, blocked by the power of their faith or spiteful to the decrees of the powerful" is a limited view.

Last, I'd like to end with a quote from the book, *Environmental Science* by Cunningham and Saigo, 1990. The social justice view: *The world has enough resources for everyone, according to this view, but inequitable social and economic systems cause maldistributions of those resources. Hunger, poverty, crowding, unemployment, violence, and overpopulation are symptoms of a lack of social justice rather than a strain on resources. The way to solve these problems is to establish fair systems, not to blame the victims.*" (page 117).

Overpopulation is a single problem pulled out of a group of social problems and then a group of people, the "uneducated," are singled out as the cause. This group is then blamed for their lack of education because of their population. This road goes nowhere. The problem with it is that the short-sighted may follow down it and use it as one more reason to be hostile toward the "poor and downtrodden" instead of looking for workable solutions that include true social justice.

Clover Phalen
Philosophy major

Real message destroyed

Dear Editor,

I'm a concerned student at LAVC, and I'd like to address two issues that have caused quite a few students to become aggravated.

You said, "[Our country ...allows any man or woman to]reach the heights of power — if they are special enough." This seems to imply: 1. (because of statements made later in the article), that only white, educated people can become powerful, and 2. that one must be special and not determined in order to succeed. Further you group "...the rest..." by what they are "...born into — [their] name, [their] color, [their] sex. I also noted the poor assumption made regarding "...a concpiracy" as if someone (minorities, by your claim) are tactically trying to "...overcome those with power." The emphasis of that article can be found hidden at the end of the second paragraph, "One child can get a far better education and benefits on a specified amount of dollars...."Screaming out from within the lines of the paragraph is a transition used to destroy the message you might have conveyed. Instead you said, "Education and religion play a large role ...But... if ...blacks and Hispanics continue to have more children, they ...cut off chances [of] further education" for those [white] children. Finally, you reiterate in the last sentence of the third paragraph that minorities are getting in the way.

Although the intent of the rally may have initially been good, it seemed to do little than bring forward some people with strong opinion and poor verbal skills. The intent behind the rally was said to be something slong the lines of "to give Chris Mayda a chance to express her reason behind her claims." Can she be blamed for not standing around a mob that's blurting out profanities?

Is it also necessary to remind ourselves as adults and students of higher education that we have the ability to sit down and select our words accordingly. Moreover, that if we don't address the issues that concern us with tact then we appear to merely be blowing off steam, possibly without the possibility of resolving the problem.

Dalton E. Pena
philosophy major

More letters in next issue of the Valley Star

Valley STAR

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Letters

The Valley Star is happy to receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers. The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 350 words.

Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist,or sexually oriented denigrations.

Letters should be signed and, if applicable, include student's major and ID number. Letters may be presented to the Valley Star office, Bungalow 25, by Monday morning for the following Thursday.

The college newspaper is published as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program.

Under appropriate state and federal court decisions, these materials are free from prior restraint by virtue of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The Editorial and advertising materials published herein, including any opinions expressed, should not be interpreted as the position of the Los Angeles Community College District, the college, or any officer or employee thereof.

Raquel listens to...a child actor

By Raquel Vaccaro
Interview Editor

His big brown eyes, his winning smile, his great personality set this kid apart from all others. You can feel there's something magical about 8-year-old Michael Malota, child actor. His room, small but neat, his shelves filled with soccer and karate trophies, his desk filled with basketball cards, Malota doesn't want to be considered special or a star. "I'm just a normal kid who acts," Malota says.

A child actor for two years, Malota has appeared in commercials selling everything from shoes to trucks.

Q. How did you get into show business? A. I take karate with my friend, Kimberly, and Kim's mother and my mother are friends, and she told my Mom that she was sure I could do commercials and movies because I'm a natural. My mother brought me to Kim's agent who signed me immediately.

Q. What do you love most about acting? A. I love to see my work on T.V. I enjoy meeting new people and making new friends. I'm also learning about what goes on behind the scenes. It's fun to see how a commercial or a movie is made.

Q. What do you dislike about being an actor? A. When I'm working, I wait on the set for a few hours before going in front of the camera. Also, sometimes I miss my sports because I have an audition in the afternoon, but I make up my sports on the weekends.

Q. How do you feel when you don't get the job? A. Well, it really doesn't bother me when I don't get the job. Sometimes I'm just not the right look for the part. I just always do my best. It's strange. When I think I got the job, I don't. When I don't think I got the job, I get it.

Q. What does it take to be a child actor? A. First, you have to love what you're doing. You must keep your afternoons free for auditions. Be a good reader. You should like to memorize scripts. You must learn how to do your lines naturally instead of reading them.

Q. Do you take acting lessons? A. I'm not right now, but I have in the past. Acting lessons are good because they help you learn how to be natural. Also lessons give you an idea of what you're doing and why you're doing it.

Q. I've heard the words "sides and work permit." What are they? A. When you audition, your sides are the lines that you have to memorize. Your work permit is a paper that shows you can work legally.

Q. What is a callback? A. After your first audition, you may get called back for a second look and sometimes even more callbacks. I love callbacks!

.Q. What's your favorite movie and actor? A. My favorite movie is *Home Alone*. The kid is funny, and Jean-Claude Van Damme is my favorite actor. I've met him, and he is a hard worker. Also, he has a great personality. He's a karate champion, and I love karate.

Q. Do you ever worry that your friends like you because you're on T.V.? A. No. Most of my friends knew me before I started in show business. Besides, I'm just one of the kids. I have the best Mom and Dad and two cute younger sisters. I have a great family that loves me. If I stop the business tomorrow, I'll always have my family.

.Q. Do you go to school when you work? A. Yes. When you work you have to have a studio teacher on the set for three hours a day. You always bring your work from school to do with a studio teacher.

Q. What was your favorite job? A. My GMC truck commercial. My Mom and I went out of town for a week. We had a great time.

Q. Future goals in the busines? A. I'd like to get a series because you see what's going on more and you learn more about acting day by day.

Q. Have any hobbies? A. Yeah... collecting basketball cards!

Q. I know your sisters are doing commercials. Any comments? A. I love my sisters, Marina, 4, and Kristina, 2. I'm glad they're in the business so young because they're learning about the business early. They're also having fun. My whole family is in the business. My sisters and I do commercials, and my Mom and Dad manage us. We are one big happy family.

Q. Do you get an allowance? A. Yes. But not because I work in show business. My Dad gives me an allowance because I always do my chores and I always get good grades.

Q. What do you want to be when you grow up? A. An architect.

LEN LY/ Valley Star

Lazaro Arvizu, the leader of Xipe Totec Danzantes Aztecas, an authentic Aztec dance group from Mexico, dances at Monarch Square Wednesday afternoon.

Steroids...

Continued from page 1

said. Duchaine cited a World Health Oganization study that used testosterone as a contraceptive for males. Steroids have been used on AIDS patients and post-menopausal women. "I'm not here to tell you steroids are okay," said Duchaine, but doctors are surprised by the health of athletes who have been using steroids for 50 years

"It doesn't help to tell the truth," said Duchaine. "I know Olympic track and field athletes who look into the camera and lie." Two years ago, in the Mr. Olympia championship, athletes who did not use steroids looked out of shape, he said, so the promoters quit testing. "If you conform you look awful."

Sargeant Thomas Page, of the Los Angeles Police Department said that steroid use is following the same pattern as other illict drugs. "Twelve years ago, some people didn't think cocaine was addictive." Dective John Beimer LAPD, said the police have not arrested one single peorsn for possesion or sale of steroids in two years. Steroid use is not conspicuous and the police receive no complaints, he said. Therefore, enforcing laws prohibiting sale and posession of these drugs is not as high a priority as busting heroin or cocaine dealers.

The effects of steroids are not well known, although the police said it is a stimulant. However, "What goes up must come down," said Page. "Euphoria gives way to depression."

AFT...

Continued from page 1

touch with her members. He said the decision was not Hills to make as an individual but to bring before her members, and that she had not done so.

Hill responded to his charge: "I work for members and not for clicks. I am not out of touch."

Others gave varying dissenting opinions to both sides of the issue and though people were getting hot under the collar chair Dr. Barbara Pottharst was in control.

But then protocol was broken as Hill stood out of turn and immediately began to answer the charges of her lack of presence at the California Federation of Teachers union meeting. Pottharst, though she tried to bring back control, was overpowered by Hill, who ignored the meeting's order.

From this time on, it became impassioned and intense as Marzillier continued the new tradition of speaking out of order. By this time both candidates spoke vehemently waving hands in the air to make a point.

Only a point of order call and a plea to desist from making personal attacks was able to bring the meeting back to an ordered gathering, but the point made was that this is a heated race with two opponents who view each other as enemies and see events in a Rashomon- style of the truth.

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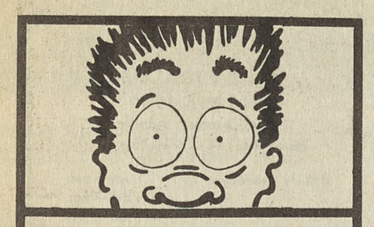

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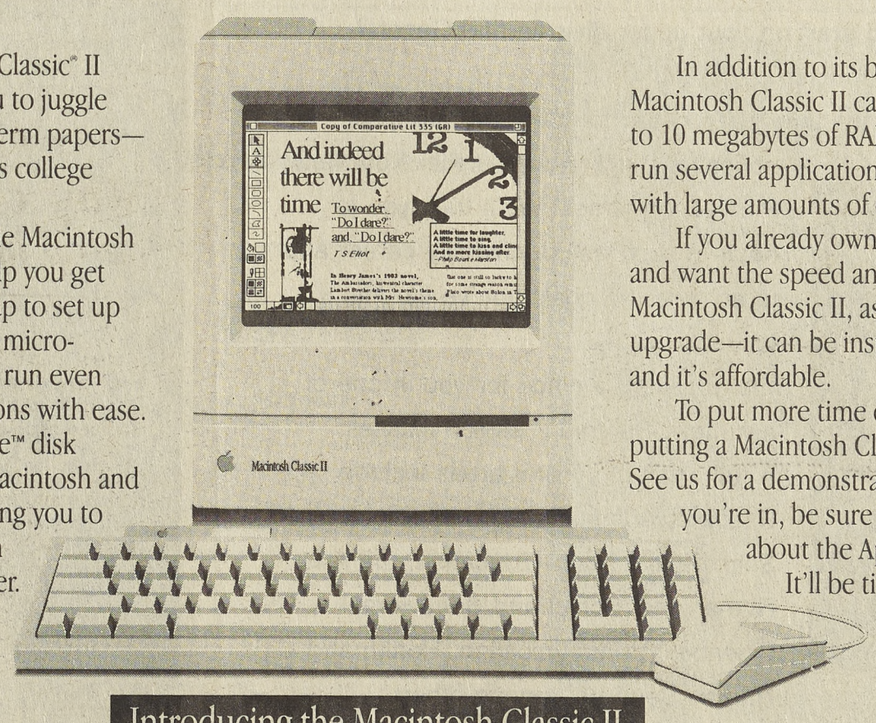

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Straight Talk

By Robert Finkel
Staff Writer

"Straight Talk" is the definitive Dolly Parton movie. The country music singer-turned-actress drawls and sings (she wrote and performs ten songs) through this star vehicle in a perky role that certainly must contain a lot of her real personality. The ads call it a modern-day Cinderella story, but that's quite misleading: there's not a wicked step sister, a glass slipper, a midnight ball -- or even a Prince Charming, if you can believe that!

The story revolves around Dolly as Shirlee Kenyon, a career ex on the run from her latest live-in hunk (Michael Madsen). No Thelma or Louise, she even leaves him half the money when she splits. Unable to land any job, she wanders into a radio station talk show set up, and starts handling "Dr" call-ins, as in Dr. Barbara De Angelis. Not a bad job to fall into, however implausible the scenario.

Obsessively honest, Dolly's luck carries her through the perils of Shirlee in old-time movie style. But that's the problem: she is Princess Charming, solving strangers problems, loving louses (James Woods plays the two-faced suitor), until she is forced off the radio despite the fact that she's living higher on the hog than a pig farmer with a twin litter. She is in fact kept busier than a "one legged man in a butt-kickin' contest". Other choice Partonisms like ("come down off the cross lady, somebody needs the wood!") are delightful when the Dolly delivers them, but not enough to give the script any real body. Once again, for that, the film has to turn to our star.

Last note: film buffs may notice that the plot resembles Frank Capra's 1941 classic "Meet John Doe," right down to the midnight climax.

Symphony livens up Monarch Hall

By Mark Morford
Staff Writer

With it's ungraceful lighting, and with it's charmingly beat-up white cardboard sound reflectors and beautiful faux wood paneling (the kind one might find on late model Chrysler wagons), Monarch Hall provides an unparalleled setting for the performance of classical music.

Last Tuesday (April 7), conductor Ted Lynn and his all-student symphony did their best to bring the spiritless room to life, performing Beethoven's complete Symphony No. 1, as well as selections from Rossini and Leonard Bernstein, in a appealingly varied musical program.

The first selection of the evening was Rossini's Overture to *The Barber of Seville,* a wonderful, spirited piece containing one of classical music's most famous and recognizable melodies (it's been used in umpteen t.v. commercials, and of course the younger generation will note immediately that Bugs Bunny foiled Elmer Fudd to it in a classic Hanna-Barbera cartoon). The work moved along smoothly, despite a few missed notes, and the orchestra seemed relatively comfortable with it's lively musical ideas and tempos.

The centerpiece of the evening was Beethoven's clean and very classically styled Symphony No. 1 in C Major, which was more or less a study in pained concentration for the orchestra. Many are only first or second year symphony students, and they valiantly hung on through to the end, despite sometimes looking as though (if he weren't already dead) they would like to strangle Beethoven for ruining their day with this thing.

The first movement kicked in deftly, and contained some trademark Beethoven dramatic modulations as well as simple, pure musical ideas. It was during the second and third movements that the musicians seemed to get somewhat bogged down in the work, and they didn't really find relief until the finale. The slow passages of the second movement and the tricky rhythms and colliding ideas of the third found the inexperienced orchestra at a bit of a loss for direction; an understandable problem, to be sure, although it required some patience on the part of the audience. Only when the fast paced finale began did they find their musical legs again, and this more powerful and clean-cut movement brought the energy level, of both orchestra and audience alike, back up to where it needed to be.

The key of C major, as any musician will tell you, is almost always a positive one, as far as tone and attitude are concerned, and this symphony is no exception. Although Beethoven's works, especially the symphonies, are traditionally thought of as a bit heavy handed and commanding, this one never seems to weigh itself down with the oversized motifs one finds in, say, the warhorse *Fifth.* The *First* is, as one might expect, not nearly as daring or radical as the later symphonies, and it is most definitely not as challenging. But this symphony does show Beethoven as beginning to subtly manipulate the classical form, and it carries underneath it's enthusiastic tone the foreshadowing of greater genius to come.

The final piece of the hourlong program was Bernstein's colorful and bright Overture to West Side Story. Relieved to be through with Beethoven, the orchestra and Ted Lynn both seemed to enjoy themselves much more with this piece, although Lynn did display his warm sense of humor and calm patience with the struggling orchestra throughout the entire program. The Bernstein piece was an excellent bookend to the lively Rossini work, and it offered some more contemporary musical stylings which the orchestra embraced with relative ease. It was a fine end to a brief but highly enjoyable program.

Unfortunately (fortunately for Beethoven, though) Tuesday was the last time this semester that the LAVC Symphony Orchestra will perform (for free, anyway), so you missed out. Few seem to be aware that the music department presents weekly concerts of various kinds on campus, most all of which are free of charge. Stop by the Music department and pick up a schedule of upcoming concerts, and attend a few. And while you're in such a musical frame of mind, pick up a schedule for the LA Philharmonic's Spring concert series, too. Student rush tickets are a bargain, and the Philharmonic is magnificent.

SHARYN CADIA/Valley Star

Andrew York, classical guitarist performed Sunday, April 5th in Musical recital hall.

Works in Progress proceeds

By Chris Mayda
Editor in chief

A transformation of the art gallery into an art studio is proceeding for the upcoming Works in Progress show April 22 through May 5. The student-organized exhibition will feature artists from many disciplines working in their medium during the show.

The theme, *Illusion/Reality,* will provide the artists with a chance to explain their work and the public a chance to question and see the process of art going from the blank page, lump of clay or the preferred medium to the finished product. Some of the arts produced will be painting, drawing, ceramics, printmaking and beading. Additional conceptual pieces, allowing audience participation, will also be in process.

According to Barbara Margolies, one of the students sponsoring the even, many of the works will be offered for sale.

The show will open on April 22 and run through May 5 with a reception held on May 1 from 7 to 9 p.m. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 10a.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m., and Fridays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

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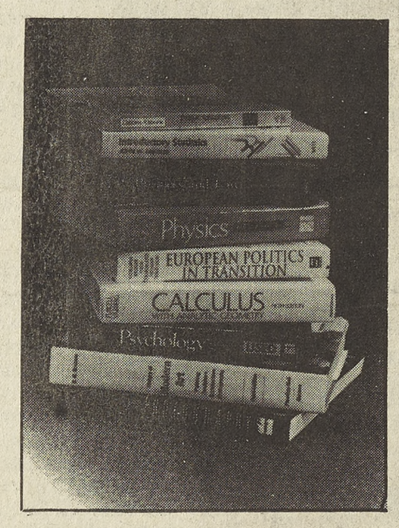

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Trick or treat? Phantom premieres

By Joezen Punongbayan
Staff Writer

The world premiere of *"The Phantom of the Opera,"* the new musical version by Robert Chauls and Joseph Robinette, opened last Thursday in the Little Theatre to a sold-out, anxious crowd. But could a gigantic production of this proportion be successfully transplanted to the humble setting of the LAVC campus' Main Stage?

Divided into two acts, six scenes apiece, *"Phantom"* follows the enigmatic and often fatal events that occur backstage before, during and after an opera. Rumor has it that a phantom, played impeccably by Bill Wallis, lives in the dark and hidden rooms of the old opera house. But to a few inhabitants it is no rumor.

To Christine, performed by the talented Laura Diaz, he is real. He is her "Angel of Music" and his wish is to make her the "star."

The Phantom's plan is abruptly halted because of the unwillingness of the opera house's new owners, Moncharmin and Richard, played by Ted Muhlhauser and Jeffrey Croot, to recognize his existence. Instead, they blame the head usher, Madame Giry, a very fresh performance by Hebe Barrera, for making up the legend of the Phantom for her own financial gain.

Bounded by nothing but the love he feels for Christine, the Phantom resorts to murder and mayhem to win her eternal love. The tragic ending leaves with it a message that warns of the dangers of obsessive and conditional love.

Despite the Theatre Department's lack of funding, the sets appeared elaborate and amply detailed. The set design of the Phantom's lair was most impressive; a dungeon-like atmosphere with organ and trapped cage. The costumes were not extravagant but elicited a feel for the time period.

The music played an important factor in setting the tone of the performance. Credit is due to the music department and musical director, Diana Wintrub, for doing an exceptional job in creating a hypnotic atmosphere for the premiere.

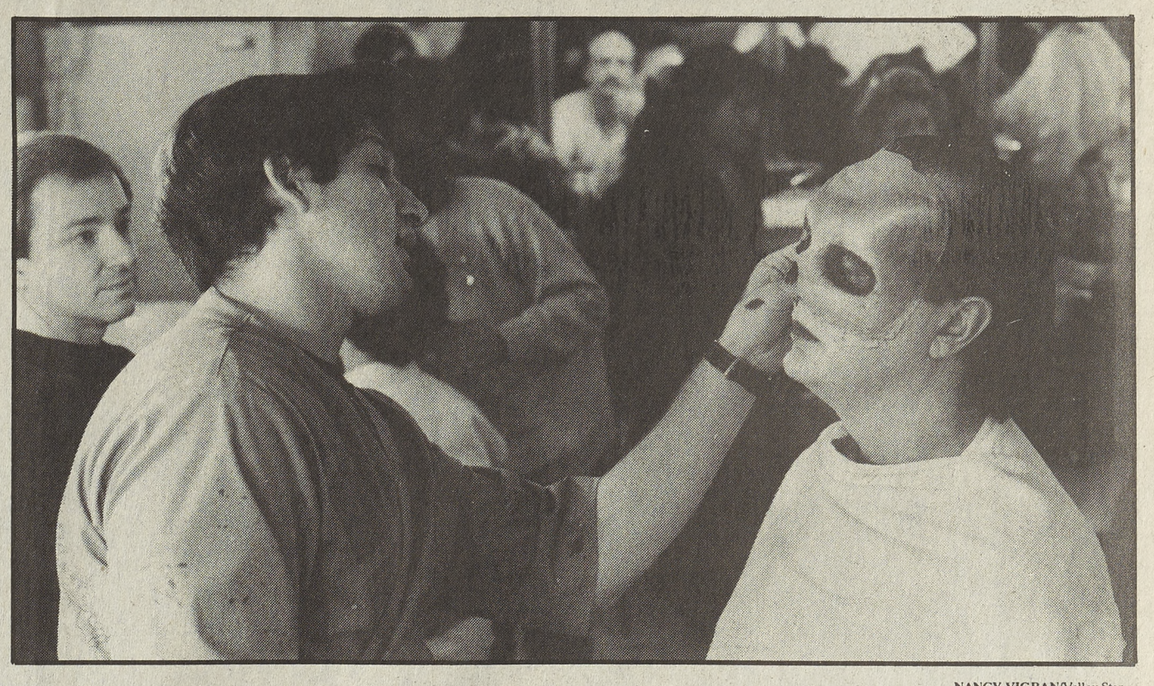
Laura Diaz and Bill Wallis shined during their haunting duets. Ms. Diaz is gifted with a soft, but powerful voice. The contrast of Mr. Wallis' hoarse, painfully soothing voice gives the viewer an illusion of the opposite worlds that Christine and the Phantom live in.

When the two were called for dialogue, Mr. Wallis proved just as comfortable (or should I say commanding) as he was when he was singing. Ms. Diaz appeared quite the opposite, hopelessly waiting for that next interlude to save the scene. Singing is definitely her forte.

One rather amusing number was sung by the opera house's current star, La Carlotta, played by Moira Nash. Undeniably a very funny and well-written song, when she received the most thunderous ovations at curtain call, it was clearly evident that the viewers were looking for comic relief, rather than substance, during a show that lasted three hours (there was a 15 minute intermission, thank you).

Other musical numbers left much to be desired. Strained voices, poor choreography and sometimes disappointing lyrics all added up to some minor laughs and major sighs.

So the *Phantom* is haunting LAVC's Little Theatre, three more times: April 9, 10, 11 at 8 p.m. Maybe it dragged a little, was rough around the edges, needed a little more vocal training for some of the actors. But as Mark Morford, who previewed the show last week, said it beats any movie out on release today.



NANCY VIGRAN/Valley Star

Make-up artist, Aaron Freedkin applies the finishing touches to the Phantom, Bill Wallis before Friday night's performance of the Phantom of the Opera.

NANCY VIGRAN/Valley Star

Timber Gilliland (left) and Allison Seallorns make-up for the performance of Phantom of the Opera last Friday.

Victorian wardrobe dresses Phantom

By Catherine Gunn
Staff Writer

Phantom of the Opera's wardrobe reflects research of the late Victorian era. Corsets and tight-fitting bodices gave way to the looser-fitting shirt waists because women needed more mobility. "You can't understand a garment until you understand the sociological factors," says Judy Ashton, costume designer for *Phantom of the Opera.*

Ashton used Degas paintings of ballerinas to model the costumes in the opera. Ashton is a self-taught "mustang."

From the stock of costumes on hand or by sewing her own creations, Ashton has outfitted actors for four years. For one of Carlotta's dresses she upgraded a plain pink skirt to make it more theatrical and gaudy, by adding lace, bows and a bussle. Carlotta's other dress includes an authentic ruffle. Ashton loved a hat with black feathers so much she designed Carlotta's dress around it.

Beginning in January, Ashton has lately been working 8 to 10 hours daily for the past three weeks with a crew of four, with three intermittent student helpers.

The man behind the mask

By Jordan Moore
Staff Writer

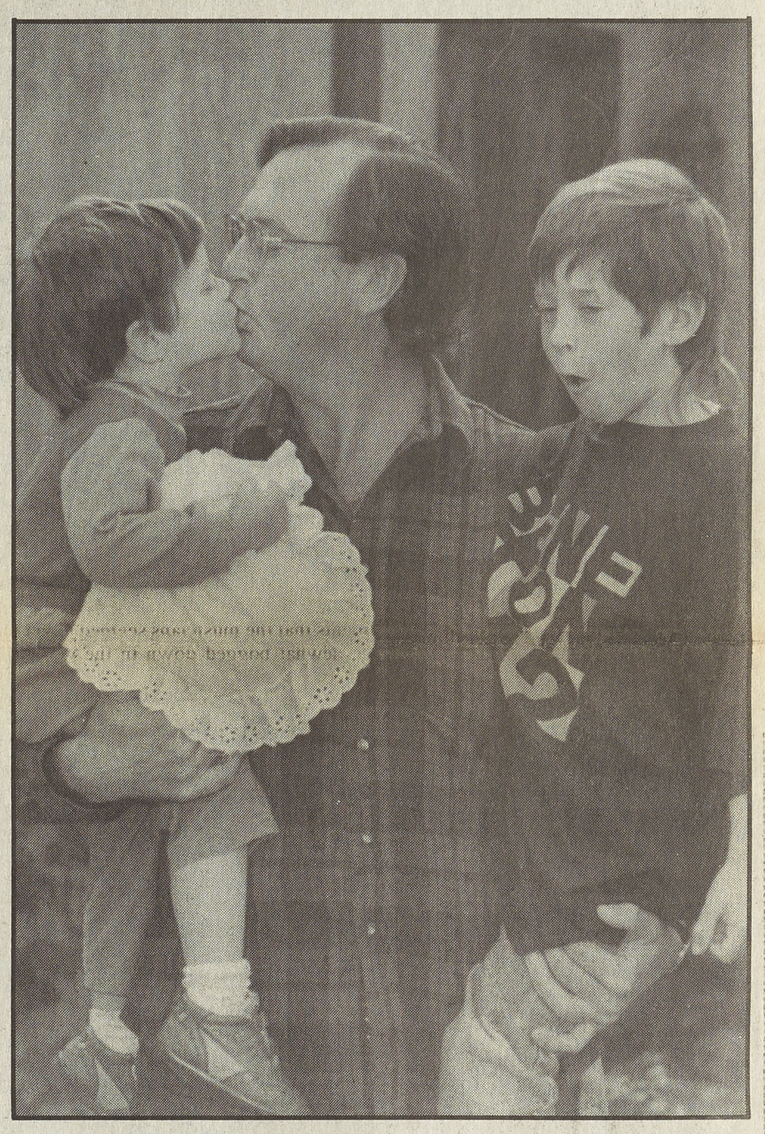
"Who," you ask, "is the Phantom?" The man behind the mask is none other than Valley English instructor Bill Wallis, a singer and actor who performed across Europe and the United States from 1973 to 1985.

Dr. Wallis will be featured in the final three performances of the Valley College version of *The Phantom of the Opera* tonight, Friday and Saturday. He will also give a recital of some of the vocal music of Robert Chauls, the composer of *Phantom*, with soprano Sandra Stowe on Thursday, May 7 in the Music Department at 11 a.m. In addition, they will be interpreting Emily Dickenson poems set to music by Chauls.

During his professional career, Dr. Wallis performed in more than 40 musical comedies, many operettas and several operas, including *Carmen*, by Bizet, *La Boheme*, by Puccini, and *La Traviata*, by Verde.

Dr. Wallis teaches various courses including Mythology in Literature, Opera as Literature, Introduction to Literature and English as a Second Language. The opera course had never been offered at Valley before this semester until Dr. Wallis created it and wrote the text.

Dr. Wallis received a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University in 1969 and the a doctorate from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln in 1972. After his 12 years of performance, he returned to school to teach at the University of Santa Barbara for four years. In 1988 he came to Valley, which he now calls his "academic home."



UZI ASHKENAZI/Valley Star

Bill Wallis and his two sons Joshua and Asher.

Last week to catch *Phantom of the Opera*

Valley wins special award in speech contest

LEN LY/Valley Star

Valley Speech Team wins fourteen awards and one for Continuing excellence in St. Louis, Missouri.

By Jennifer Derise
Staff Writer

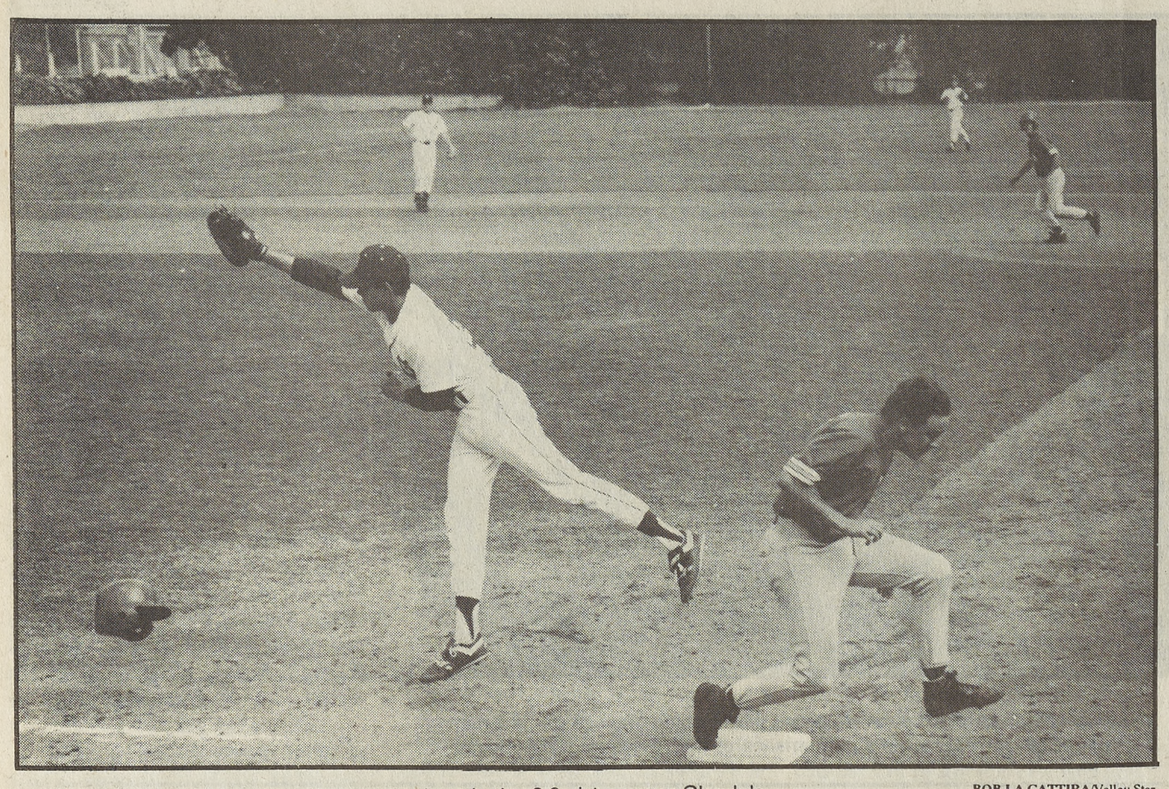
The Los Angeles Valley College Speech Team has just returned from the national competition in St. Louis, Missouri. They have once again made the top 10 of the 88 schools attending this competition and have earned a Ninth Place Sweepstakes Award.

Los Angeles Valley was also honored with a special award: one for "Continuing excellence in national competition" from the Phi Rho Pi organization. The student participants who made it into the finals are Tracy Sutter, Cat Dale, Melissa Ripp, Duane Smith, Eric DeRise, Josh Miller, Andrew Greene, Deborah Helm, Kimberly McKelvy and Kate Mcallister.

Student assistant coach Jeff Tritten worked with Betty Ballew and forensic director Marty Taras, coaching Valley's speakers. Taras says, "Last year we thought we'd beaten the odds with our new team but this year we did it again. We had only one returning speaker, Sutter, who advanced in three of her four events.

UZI ASHKENAZI/Valley Star

Mike Nelson plays the saxophone at LAVC Studio Jazz Band at Monarch Hall Monday.



Hat's off! for hustling and beating out the bunt in the 6-3 victory over Glendale. BOB LA CATTIRA/Valley Star

3-game streak moves Valley to 5th

By Kevin Bolt
Staff Writer

For a team that was on the verge of post-season elimination, and staring down the barrel of a loaded schedule that has the Monarch baseball squad playing eight games in 10 days, it would have been easy for Valley to just pack it in for the season.

But the Monarchs won three out of four games this week, including three straight to move from sixth to fifth place in the Western State Conference.

This Saturday the Monarchs will host Santa Monica at 1pm.

Valley's 3-game winning streak came to a screaching hault Monday at Bakersfield (9-6) as the Monarchs lost 6-4. Starting pitcher Manny Fernandez, did turn in a strong pitching performance for Valley, tossing eight innings, allowing only two earned runs, while striking out six and walking none. Willie Rivera suffered the loss in relief and dropped his record to .500 at 3-3.

Tim Weir, Mario Joy and Mark David each had two hits in the loss. The game was a battle for fourth place in the WSC, but the Monarchs could not capatalize on the oppurtunity, and are now 8-7-1 in conference.

"This schedule is really a killer with all these make-up games," Head Coach Chris Johnson said. "This week is a real gut check."

Arnold Settles led the Valley offense with his second 3-hit game of the season, as the Monarchs beat the Vaqueros 6-3 at Glendale Saturday. Settles also knocked in a run and scored twice.

Valley shortstop Carlos Olmos continues to play errorless defense, recording 10 ground-ball outs, including an unassisted double-play in the fifth inning that robbed Glendale of a run. "Carlos is a guy who makes all the routine plays. Anything hit to him is an out," coach Johnson said. Olmos also contributed with his bat, driving in two runs on two hits.

Arnie Aguinaga (1-2) picked up the win for Valley, going five innings, allowing only three runs on six hits. Jake Loveridge pitched the final four innings, allowing no hits while retiring the first 11 Vaqueros he faced to notch his first save.

"I felt pretty good out there today," Loveridge said. "I was getting ahead of the batters which is important for me. We have been out here since September and we want to make the playoffs."

Valley catcher Anthony Paschia added: "The pitchers (Aguinaga and Loveridge) were hitting their spots real well today, and that's why they got a lot of ground outs."

Friday, the Monarchs (13-15-1 overall) rallied for four runs in the bottom of the eigth inning to slip past visiting Moorpark, 7-4. Valley's Mark David who had two hits on the afternoon, singled to score Sean Lewis from second to tie the game at 4-4. Mike Engler then reached safely on an error to keep the inning alive. Arnold Settles, who continues to swing a hot bat, went 2 for 4, knocking home the game winner.

"Arnold has been doing great for us," Coach Johnson said. "He has really worked hard too. He's a smart player and I enjoy watching him play," coach Johnson said.

Willie Rivera picked up the win for Valley.

Last Thursday, Valley got their second win of the year over College of the Canyons, a 4-3 come from behind home victory.

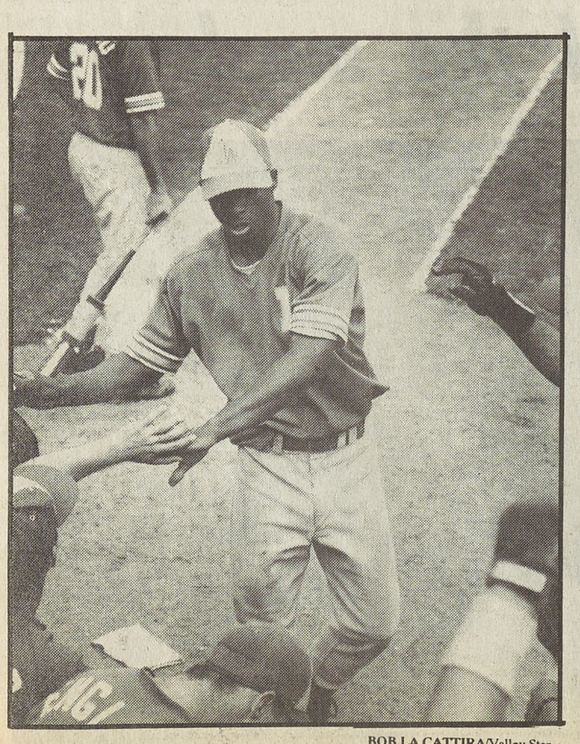
When the Cougars Chad Miyata, Danny Gray and Ty Powell each singled and scored to give Canyons a 3-0 lead in the fifth inning, however, the Monarch hopes of victory and a playoff birth were fading.

But three Canyons errors in the sixth gave Valley new life, and Monarch catcher Kevin Walsh and right fielder Tim Weir came through with clutch, two out hits to tie the game 3-3. Sean Lewis then singled Weir to third, from where he scored the winning run on a wild pitch.

Jake Loveridge (2-3) picked up the win in relief of starter Manny Fernandez. Willie Rivera tallied his second save of the year. "This was a big win for us, battling to stay in the play-off hunt like we are," coach Johnson said

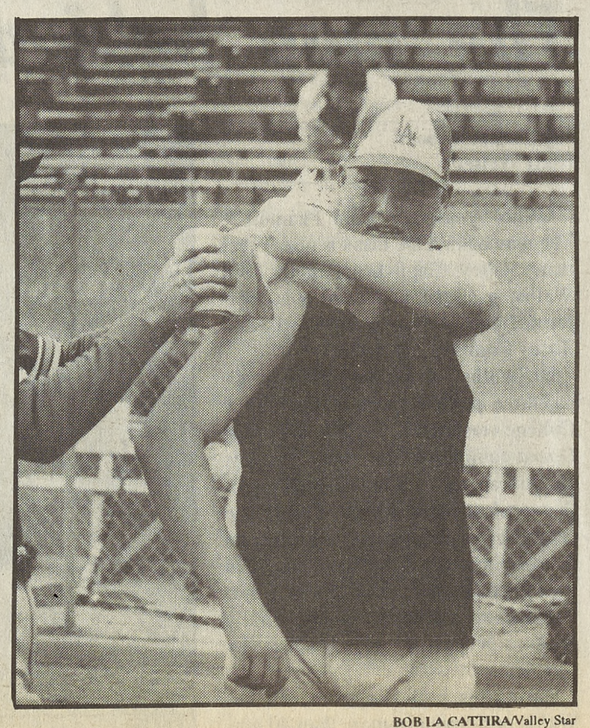
WSC Standings

Pierce...(13-3)
Ventura...(11-3)
Canyons...(10-5)
Bakersfield(9-6)
Valley....(8-7-1)
Cuesta...(7-8)
Moorpark (7-8)
Santa Barbara (6-8-1)
Glendale (5-10)
Santa Monica (4-11)
Oxnard...(2-12)



BOB LA CATTIRA/Valley Star

High fives! for Arnold Settles he went 3-4 with 2 RBI's to hand Glendale a 6-3 defeat.



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Cool ice for a hot arm! Jake Loveridge pitched four no hit innings to notch over Glendale.

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